

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSM-05 PM-05
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 ACDA-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /101 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. NEUMANN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER

-----005452 200201Z /73

O 192223Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD/JCS
CIA
USIA

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - OCTOBER 19

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
OCTOBER 19, 1977. FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS
HODDING CARTER III.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE WASHINGTON POST STORY OF
TODAY? YOU MUST HAVE SEEN IT, I BELIEVE.

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A. I DON'T KNOW WHICH STORY. WHICH ONE?

Q. WELL, THE WITNESSES CHARGED--SENATOR ABOUREZK BROUGHT
SOME WITNESSES FROM THE WEST BANK, WHO HAVE BEEN KICKED
OUT BY ISRAEL, AND THEY TESTIFIED YESTERDAY.

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY REACTION TO THAT PARTICULAR STORY. IT
IS A HEARING--YOU MEAN, ON THE HILL?

Q. WELL, WOULDN'T THAT BE INCLUDED IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS
ISSUE, TOO, WHERE THEY ARE PUSHING ACROSS INTO THE WEST
BANK?

A. YES, BUT THAT IS AN ONGOING HEARING ON THE HILL, AND
I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON IT AT THIS TIME.

Q. THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS THAT HE HAS HAD
A CONTACT WITH THE UNITED STATES ABOUT THE WORKING PAPER.
HAVE WE NOW RECEIVED ANY OFFICIAL REACTIONS FROM ANYBODY?

A. THE SECRETARY INDICATED THIS MORNING THAT COMMENTS
HAVE BEEN COMING IN. I DON'T THINK I WOULD WANT TO
SPECIFY, BECAUSE I DON'T BELIEVE IT WOULD BE TRUE, THAT
A COMPLETE NEW REVISION OF THE PAPER--I THINK IT IS MORE
IN THE NATURE OF A COMMENT SO FAR, AND I AM NOT IN A
POSITION TO SAY HOW MANY COUNTRIES HAVE RESPONDED. I
WILL AGREE THAT THEY HAVE IN FACT, THAT THE EGYPTIANS

HAVE COME IN.

Q. I DON'T QUITE FOLLOW YOU ON THAT. HE SAID THAT EGYPT HAS ALREADY BEGUN ASKING THE UNITED STATES FOR CLARIFICATIONS OF SPECIFIC CHANGES IN THE U.S. WORKING PAPER. AND YOU ARE SAYING WHAT?

A. THAT THESE HAVE TAKEN THE FORM OF COMMENTS ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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WORKING PAPER. IT IS EARLY DAYS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS YET, AND WE HAVE A LOT OF PARTIES TO HEAR FROM, AND THERE WILL BE, AS I THINK I HAVE INDICATED BEFORE, A CONSIDERABLE BACK AND FORTH DIALOGUE NOT ONLY WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES BUT, AS THAT DIALOGUE PROCEEDS, WITH ISRAEL AS WELL.

Q. COMMENTS FROM THE EGYPTIANS?

A. LET ME SAY THAT THE ONES THAT I SPECIFIED HAVE A COPY OF IT. THE SAUDIS NOW HAVE A COPY OF IT AND THE SOVIET UNION HAS A COPY OF IT, BEYOND THOSE THAT I POSTED THE OTHER DAY.

Q. WE ARE NOT GOING TO DISCUSS REVISION WITH THE SAUDIS OR THE SOVIETS, ARE WE?

A. NO, BUT WE ARE OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN THEIR COMMENTS UPON IT. WE ARE, IN FACT, CONCERNED ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO GO TO GENEVA AGREEING ON A GENERAL SET OF PRINCIPLES. THAT IS THE POINT OF THE EXERCISE.

Q. THERE IS ALSO A REPORT THAT THE SYRIANS HAVE REJECTED IT. IS THIS TRUE?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING AT ALL THAT WOULD SUBSTANTIATE THAT.

Q. IS THERE ALSO NOT A REPORT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS MOVING TO REFORMULATE THE WORKING PAPER?

A. THAT WAS INTERESTING, BECAUSE THAT REPORT GOES ON UNCLASSIFIED

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AND SAYS, "OF COURSE, THESE DISPATCHES ARE NOT CONFIRMED," AND I AM SURE NOT STANDING HERE CONFIRMING ANY SUCH RUMOR. THAT WAS IN A PRESS REPORT FROM WHAT, THE JERUSALEM POST?

Q. IS IT NOT LIKELY THAT THE WORKING PAPER WILL BE REFORMULATED?

A. I HAVE NOTED, AND I WANT TO RESTATE, THAT OBVIOUSLY AS COMMENTS COME IN AND AS WE GO FORWARD WITH OUR CONVERSATION, WHAT WE ARE SEEKING IS AN AGREEMENT BY ALL THE PARTIES ON A GENERAL SET OF PRINCIPLES THAT CAN GET US TO GENEVA AND HELP ESTABLISH THE ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK, AND SO WHAT FORM IT IS GOING TO TAKE TO GET THAT KIND OF CONSENSUS REALLY REMAINS FOR THE DISCUSSIONS.

Q. CAN WE JUST PIN IT DOWN COUNTRY BY COUNTRY? WE HAVE RECEIVED A RESPONSE FROM EGYPT, IS THAT RIGHT?

A. I AM WILLING TO CONFIRM THAT. THE REASON I AM JUST SIMPLY NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING FURTHER--AND I WILL TAKE THE QUESTION FROM YOU--IS I AM NOT SURE OF HOW MANY MORE HAVE COME IN, AT WHAT LEVEL. I WILL TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q. BUT YOU HAVE CALLED THEM COMMENTS. YOU WON'T CALL THEM ATTEMPTS TO CLARIFY?

A. I WILL ACCEPT THAT. ALL I MEANT WAS THAT --

Q. EGYPT IS SEEKING SOME CLARIFICATIONS.

A. YES. I WAS TRYING TO DISTINGUISH AT THIS POINT BETWEEN SOME OF THE PRESENTATION OF A TOTALLY NEW SOMETHING. THIS IS ON A QUESTION ON THIS.

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Q. BUT THEY ARE ASKING FOR SOME CLARIFICATION ON SOME POINTS.

A. YES. AND I EXPECT THAT THAT PROCEDURE WILL BE FOLLOWED.

Q. HOW DO YOU HANDLE THIS SITUATION? I MEAN, I WOULD BE

HAPPY FOR YOUR ADVICE. HERE MR. FAHMI IS IN AN OPEN FORUM, TO HIS OWN ASSEMBLY, IN WHICH HE SAYS, "LET IT BE CLEAR THAT THE PLO ALONE HAS THE AUTHORITY TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE PALESTINIANS AND TO SEND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO GENEVA." WE KNOW WHAT IS IN THE WORKING PAPER. WE ALSO KNOW WHAT THE ISRAELI POSITION IS ON THIS, AND IT BOGGLES OUR IMAGINATION TO KNOW HOW YOU ARE GOING TO GET AROUND THIS ONE.

A. THAT IS THE POINT OF THE DIPLOMATIC EFFORT, AND I WILL CONCEDE THAT THE DIFFICULTIES ARE IMMENSE, AS

WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID, AND THAT THE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON THAT ISSUE ARE CLEAR, AND THE POINT OF OUR EXERCISE IS TO TRY TO, IN FACT, RESOLVE THOSE DIFFERENCES. AND IF ANY OF YOU HAVE SOME ADVICE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO OFFER TO THE SECRETARY, I WILL BE HAPPY TO RELAY IT. WE ARE ATTEMPTING IN EVERY WAY WE KNOW.

Q. THE JORDANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SAID--AND HIS REMARKS WERE PRINTED IN THE JORDANIAN PRESS ON MONDAY--THAT A COPY OF THE WORKING PAPER WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED HAD A COVERING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER. AT THE SAME TIME, AL AHRAH IN CAIRO SAID THAT THERE WAS A COVERING LETTER FROM CARTER WHICH CLEARED UP A NUMBER OF POINTS OF INTERPRETATION IN THE WORKING PAPER. THERE IS UNCLASSIFIED

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A STRONG SIMILARITY BETWEEN WHAT THOSE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE REPORTING. WHAT, IN FACT, DID WE SEND THEM BESIDES A WORKING PAPER?

A. INsofar AS COMMENTS BY THE LETTERS, OR WHAT HAVE YOU, BY THE PRESIDENT ARE CONCERNED, I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO DO ANYTHING WITH THAT. INsofar AS WHAT OUR CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGES CONCERN, I GUESS I AM JUST GOING TO HAVE TO SAY I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU ON THAT. THE QUESTION, I ASSUME IS, DO WE HAVE SOME POINTS WHICH GO BEYOND THAT WORKING PAPER?

Q. SINCE THERE HAS BEEN GREAT CONFUSION IN ISRAEL, WITH THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER SUGGESTING THAT THERE ARE UNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN US AND THEM, AND NOW YOU HAVE GOT THE ARAB PARTIES SUGGESTING A SIMILAR KIND OF THING, IT WOULD BE OF GREAT INTEREST AND CERTAINLY CLEAR THE AIR IF WE COULD--IF YOU COULD ADDRESS YOURSELF TO THESE ARAB CLAIMS AS YOU DID TO THE ISRAELI CLAIMS.

A. CLEARING THE AIR COULD ALSO CEMENT THINGS. WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A NUMBER OF NEGOTIATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS, AND I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO THE NATURE OF THOSE.

Q. I THINK THIS IS A CBS REPORT. CAN YOU TELL US, OR CHECK IF YOU DON'T KNOW, IF THERE IS A DEAL BREWING FOR IRAN TO SELL -- THIS IS FAMILIAR BECAUSE THERE WAS SOMETHING LIKE THIS CONSIDERED IN THE LAST ADMINISTRATION--FOR IRAN TO SELL OIL TO THE ASHLAND OIL COMPANY OF KENTUCKY AND THE PROCEEDS TO BE USED TO HELP BUY F-16'S FROM THE UNITED STATES?

A. I DIDN'T SEE THAT REPORT. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

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Q. COULD YOU CHECK IT?

A. I DON'T OFFER MUCH HOPE ON THAT, BUT I WILL AT LEAST DO THE COURTEOUS THING HERE.

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN AT THE OCTOBER 18 PRESS BRIEFING:

A. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A "MINUTE" AND A "MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION?"

A. A "MINUTE" IS AN EXTRACT OR SUMMARY OF A RECORD OF CONVERSATION. A "MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION" IS ONE SIDE'S FULL RECORD OF A CONVERSATION.

Q. ISN'T USING A "MINUTE" (TO COVER A PORTION OF THE U.S.- ISRAELI TALKS ON OCTOBER 4) AN UNUSUAL PROCEDURE?

A. NO. IT IS A COMMON WAY OF MAKING CERTAIN BOTH SIDES' RECORDS AGREE ON KEY POINTS.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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